

FY 2003

# Farm Bill Program Year-End Summary Massachusetts



## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received a total of 484 applications from agricultural producers to make agricultural improvements through the EQIP program in fiscal year 2003. The application proposals totaled more than \$14 million dollars in federal cost share.



The associated projects predominately focused on water quality protection and water use savings. Massachusetts received a total cost share allocation of \$2,669,855 that supported 154 contracts.

Thirty-seven of the contracts were with dairy and other livestock producers, with \$1,498,420 in cost share. Ninety-six contracts were with cranberry producers for \$800,957 in cost share. Twenty-one contracts were with vegetable and orchard producers for \$358,981 in cost share.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)



In FY 2003 Massachusetts received 117 applications totaling \$2,589,595. The applications targeted a variety of natural communities including freshwater wetlands, aquatic habitat/fish passages, salt marshes, grasslands, old fields, early woodlands, and forests. The majority of the applications targeted early successional habitats.

In FY 2003 Massachusetts received \$225,000 in initial funding, an additional \$185,000 to fund the Bridge Creek salt marsh restoration project (40 acres) in the Town of Barnstable, and \$375,000 in an end of year allocation.

The \$225,000 funded 24 applications across the state totaling 196 acres of early successional habitat, 67 acres of freshwater wetlands/riparian habitat, 60 acres of salt marsh, and four fishway projects. The \$375,000 funded 19 applications totaling 209 acres – two fish passage projects, five acres freshwater wetlands/riparian habitat, 18 acres salt marsh restoration, and 172 acres early successional habitat.

## Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

In FY 2003 Massachusetts received \$822,000 in WRP funding and 16 applications to restore cranberry bogs to natural wetlands under permanent easements. The sites are located in the Towns of Plymouth, Wareham, Carver, Rochester, Marion, Middleboro and Nantucket. Two of the applications were ineligible; two



applicants withdrew prior to appraisal and six applicants withdrew after a purchase offer was made. The six remaining contracts total 122.8 acres and purchase offers totaling \$448,000 have been accepted.

## Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

In FY03 Massachusetts received five applications under GRP; one easement application and four rental applications. The state was initially allocated \$94,000, which was used to fund a 1.8 acre permanent easement offer in Hampshire County.



The state was later allocated another \$60,000, which was used to fund the four rental applications (a 25 acre site in Franklin county and three sites in Worcester County totaling 91.2 acres).

## Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)

In FY 03 Massachusetts received \$2,855,566 for the acquisition of farmland conservation easements. A cooperative agreement was entered into with the state Department of Agricultural Resources. The agreement will result in the preservation of approximately 1,600 acres on 13 farms.

